



# LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN



MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS

# FISH FOR THE FUTURE



SAWTOOTH FISH HATCHERY INTAKE - IDFG PHOTO

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

**JUNE 2022**

# Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



## COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I attended the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery transfer ceremony in June moving all fish production responsibilities to the Nez Perce Tribe from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. There were several excellent speeches by Chairman Samuel Penney and Shannon Wheeler from the Nez Perce Tribe along with the Secretary of the Interior and top representatives from the Corps of Engineers. Listening to these speakers discuss the pure passion they have for salmon resources left me inspired in our mission and confident of future success at Dworshak NFH. Best of luck to both the outgoing and incoming staff there!

Of course, I couldn't pass up an opportunity for some early morning (4:30 am) fishing off the Ahsahka bridge over the North Fork of the Clearwater River. It was fitting that both Mark Drobish, Dworshak Hatchery Manager, and his son, Nick Drobish, hooked Chinook on their first drift. It's not often that I get demoted to net handler before even wetting a line! When Mark hired me in 2011, Dworshak had lost 1M steelhead the year prior to IHN. Under Mark's leadership, survival now routinely pushes 90% and Mark's time is busy polishing up Standard Operating Procedures and training new staff with Jeremy Sommer, NPT Dworshak Hatchery Manager, for the next chapter. What a change in a decade!

I'm reminded everyday of the hard work all of you do out there. Trust me that we're working just as hard here in Boise trying to get the resources you need and position the LSRCP program for the next chapter. It's certainly not always easy, but it's good to look backwards sometimes and see how far we have come over the decades.

You are Fish for the Future!

- Nate

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"We've been entrusted to take care of these fish for the Nimiipuu and all people."

Chairman  
Samuel Penney  
Nez Perce Tribe  
.....



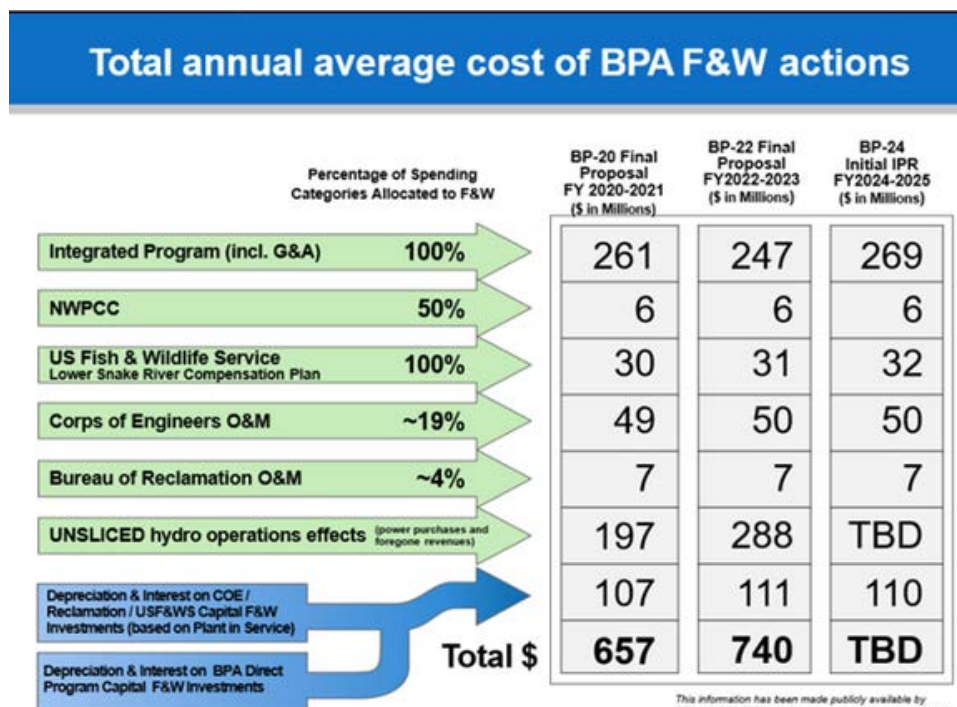
NICK DROBISH, NATE WIESE, MARK DROBISH

# INTEGRATED PROGRAM REVIEW

## SAWTOOTH FISH HATCHERY WEIR

LSRCP worked with BPA to set the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Integrated Program Review (IPR) rate case budgets. That work occurred in November 2021. The good news is that LSRCP will see a 4.4% bump from flatlined FY22/23 levels to \$32,265,000 annually. Unfortunately, since November, estimations of inflationary costs (fish food, labor, transport) will exceed 6%, meaning the program can't continue baseline programs and doesn't have resources to address additional spring Chinook mitigation needs. I was too late providing updated inflation costs this Spring to get them into the IPR rate case. The Hatchery programs within the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers will also increase 4.4% on average.

The overall Fish and Wildlife Program for BPA increased 8.7%. The F&W program commitments include CRSO, Accords, and NWPCC, which all contribute to the 8.7% increase. The 8.7% includes new CRS EIS mitigation obligations, a temporary increase for non-recurring asset maintenance needs (hatcheries, lands, and screens), and to address inflationary pressure on cost of material, labor and equipment. Not all projects will receive an 8.7% increase in budgets. Some will likely remain flat or see much smaller increases.





# LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS

## Lower Snake River Dams, Benefit Replacement Draft Report

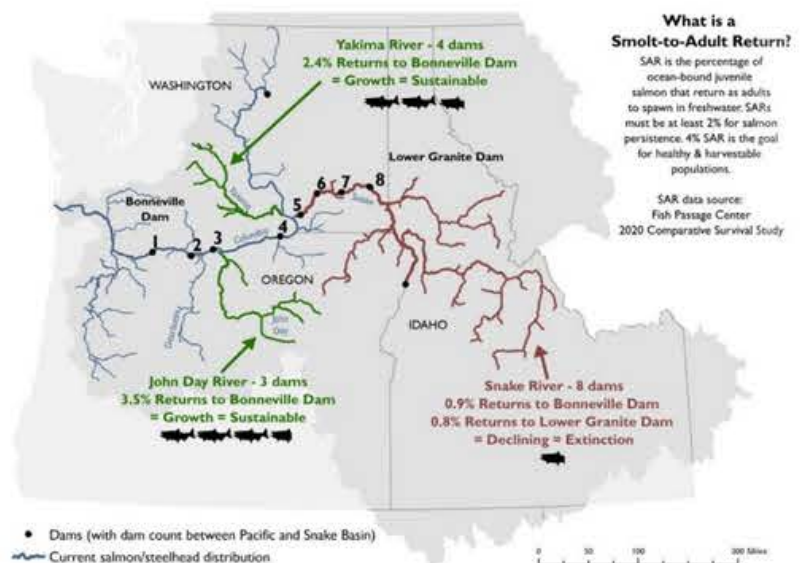
[https://www.lsrdoptions.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/LSRD-Benefit-Replacement-Draft-Report\\_2022-0609.pdf](https://www.lsrdoptions.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/LSRD-Benefit-Replacement-Draft-Report_2022-0609.pdf)

In late 2021 Gov. Jay Inslee and U.S. Sen. Patty Murray of Washington State announced a process to examine whether there are reasonable means for replacing the benefits provided by the four Lower Snake River Dams (LSRD), sufficient that breaching of the dams could be part of a comprehensive salmon recovery strategy for the Pacific Northwest. Findings from this process will be used by Gov. Inslee and Sen. Murray to determine their recommendations on a path forward for the LSRD.

That report is now available and identifies potential costs of \$10 to \$27 Billion to replace the lost energy production, irrigation, transportation, and recreation components of the projects. The report notes that from 1980 to 2018, \$24 Billion dollars have been spent by Bonneville Power Administration's Fish and Wildlife program to offset losses from the LSRD's. During that same time period, the Lower Snake River Compensation Program has spent \$1.2 Billion towards mitigating lost salmon and steelhead including replacement costs (In 2021 dollars) of all infrastructure.

Table 3: Current and historic Snake River salmon abundance and percentage of populations

Snake River Stock	Current Abundance	Historic Abundance	Percent Below C
Spring/Summer Chinook	6,988	1,000,000	42% of p
Fall Chinook	8,360	500,000	
Coho	100	200,000	Extirpate
Sockeye	100	84,000	Depend
Summer steelhead	28,000	600,000	19% of p



# SBT AQUACULTURE



AARON COLTER AND ROD ENGLE - PAPOOSE SPRINGS HATCHERY

## Shoshone Bannock Tribe Aquaculture Program

Rod Engle and I toured the Papoose, Crystal, and Legacy Springs aquaculture sites with Lytle Denny and Aaron Colter from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. The Tribe has been able to secure these locations with several different funding opportunities and a vision of more Fish for the Future. All three sites are in close proximity to the Springfield Sockeye Hatchery (Idaho Department of Fish and Game) and bolster 25 to 80 cubic feet per second of spring water at 50 F. Water hardness of these sites is around 230 pm CaCO<sub>3</sub> which puts them more on par with the Hagerman Valley than the extremely soft water of the Clearwater Basin (10 ppm) or moderate hardness of the Upper Salmon River (80 ppm). The Tribe is working on design plans to stand up aquaculture production at these sites to meet multiple fish production goals. That said, all of these sites were old private aquaculture businesses and still have significant potential for earthen rearing opportunities. That includes "Stu's Pond, nicknamed for the 6 foot sturgeon still living there. Glad to see more solid water sources coming online towards Fish for the Future. Nice work Shoshone-Bannock Tribe!



STU'S POND - PAPOOSE SPRINGS



CRYSTAL SPRINGS EARTHEN PONDS

# HIGH WATER IN JUNE

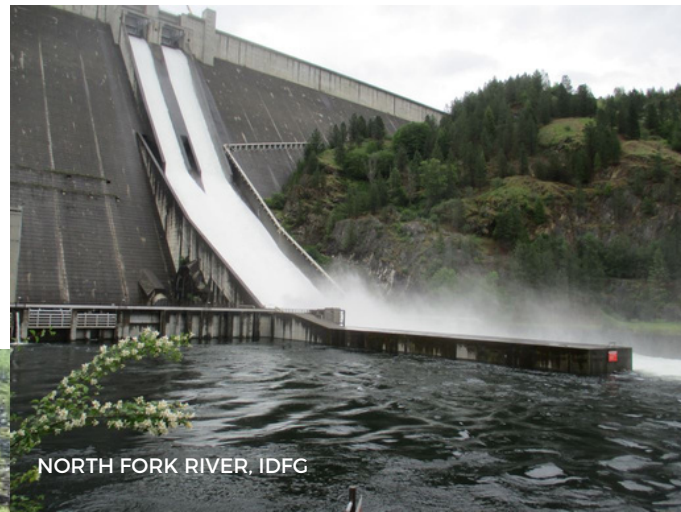


LITTLE SALMON RIVER - IDFG

## High Water Across the Basin

Above average precipitation and an "Atmospheric River" event in June caused high water events at numerous locations. Fortunately, facility damage was minimal, but spring Chinook trapping operations were delayed at numerous locations. Thanks for everyone's photo documentation of the unusual start to the summer and for the hard work clearing debris!

Dworshak staff and partners also tackled mitigating TDG levels of 114% as flows of the North Fork Clearwater river topped 15,000 cfs. The staff installed temporary water lines and monitored vacuum degassers and Low Head Oxygenation systems to push TDG below 100% on fingerlings and 103% on adults. Nice work!





TRANSFER CEREMONY AT DWORSHAK NFH

# DWORSHAK TRANSFER

## Transfer of Dworshak NFH fish production operations to the Nez Perce Tribe

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-joins-nez-perce-tribe-army-corps-engineers-commemorate-transfer>

Department of Interior Secretary, Deb Haaland commemorated the Nez Perce's Tribe's assumption of full operations for rearing salmon and steelhead at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. The event was an excellent dedication to the legacy and importance of the North Fork/Clearwater confluence and importance the Hatchery provides currently.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to provide administration services, public outreach, fish health, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office services, via the Dworshak Complex level staff.

Thanks to everyone that has contributed to Dworshak NFH's success over almost 5 decades, and through this transition period as the next chapter unfolds.

**SUCCESS IS WHEN OUR GRANDCHILDREN ENJOY THE SUCCESS OF OUR LIVES LONG AFTER WE'RE GONE**

**SHANNON WHEELER, NEZ PERCE TRIBE**





# KATIE MCBANE IDFG STEELHEAD BIO

## **Katie McBane, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Steelhead Biologist**

Katie is an Idaho native, whose passion for the outdoors began at a young age fishing and hunting throughout the state. She began her fisheries career with IDFG as a research biological aide on the Snake River Sockeye Salmon Project in 2010. In 2015, she earned B.S. degrees in both Fishery Resources and Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho. While attending U of I, she conducted undergraduate research involving the effects of sampling gears on fish diets and also working as a harvest monitoring technician in the Clearwater Region. Following graduation, she worked in the Panhandle Region assessing sampling techniques for kokanee populations and the interaction of kokanee and mysis shrimp in Lake Pend Oreille. In 2016, Katie packed her bags and moved to Virginia to pursue her M.S. degree from Virginia Tech, where she studied population dynamics and genetic structure of candy darter. After completing graduate school in 2020, she moved back to Idaho and worked as a fisheries technician out of the Magic Valley Region, a senior technician for the sockeye project, and as a fisheries technician for Idaho Power. She feels fortunate to have worked with some of the smallest species to the largest species in the U.S. Earlier this year, her lifelong dream of becoming an IDFG biologist came true, and she is serving as the hatchery steelhead monitoring and evaluation biologist. She enjoys woodworking, camping, hiking, fishing, and other outdoor adventures with her family. Besides having an official title of biologist, her biggest accomplishments thus far have been being a part of the species status assessment team for candy darter and raising her children to appreciate the outdoors. Her favorite part of Fish for the Future is the collaborative work to ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities to connect with nature as she did.

